

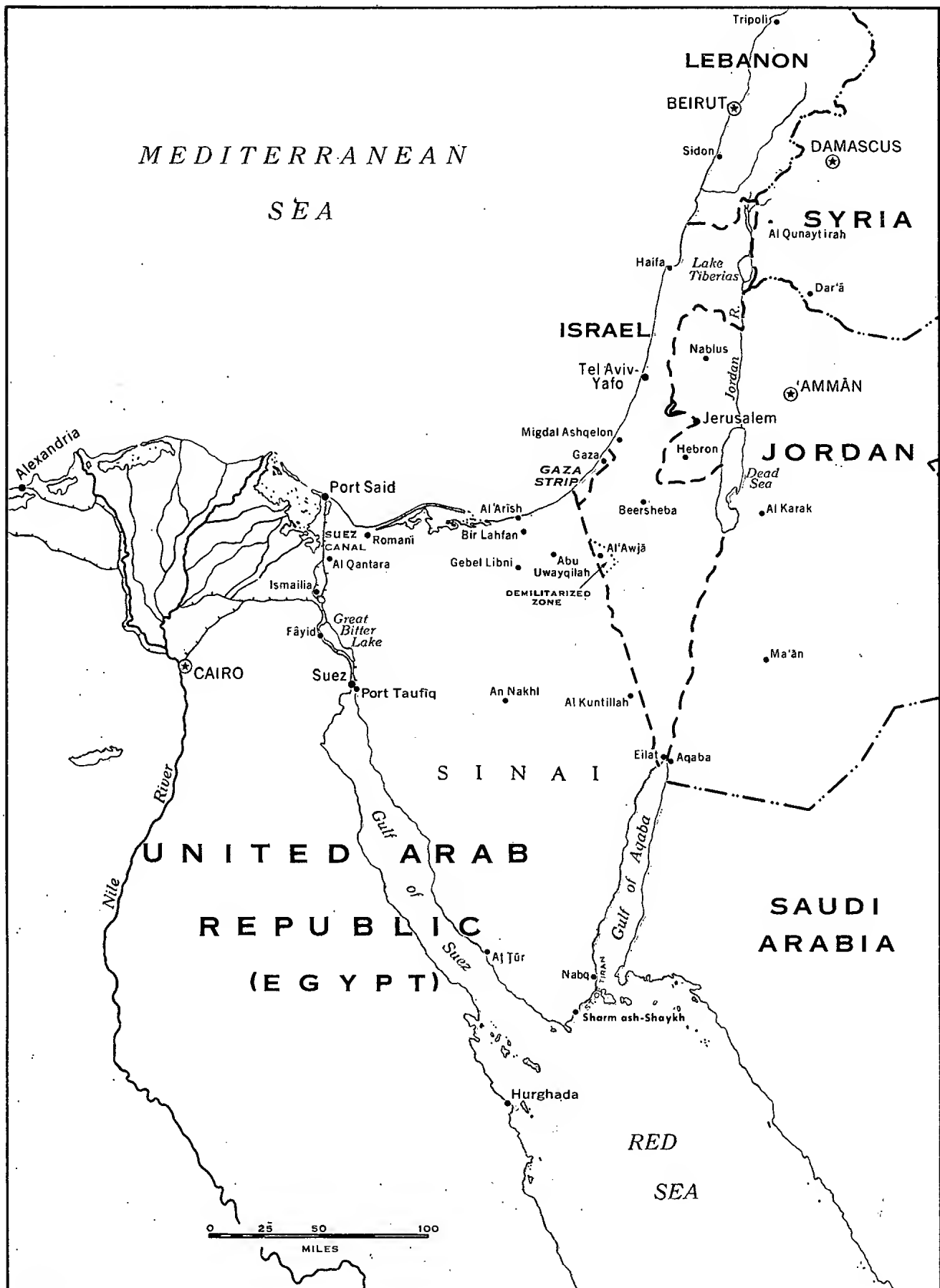


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
13 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

The night was generally quiet along the ceasefire lines.

It is becoming clear that the Israelis intend to resist any United Nations effort to mediate a settlement of the war. They claim the right to insist on direct peace negotiations with the individual Arab states. Israeli leaders imply that they will hold on to the Arab territory they now have until the Arabs come around. For the moment they are giving only partial and reluctant assistance to General Bull and his UN staff.

The Arab states are talking again about an emergency summit conference, but no date has yet been set.

The Algerians are coming to the forefront as the most militant of the Arabs.

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The press in Algiers has been complaining that Moscow's policy of "peaceful coexistence" is an obstacle to countries seeking to liberate themselves from "imperialism."

Now that the firing is over and the danger of a confrontation with the US has receded, Moscow is going all out in an effort to repair its tarnished image among the Arabs. It is mounting a diplomatic offensive that is evidently to include a request for a special session of the UN General Assembly later this month. The Soviets almost certainly expect they can get wide support in the assembly for their effort to force Israeli withdrawals from Arab territory.

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2. Soviet Union

Soviet military activity is still following normal patterns--except for the continuing military transport flights to Egypt and Algeria. We still feel these flights are designed more to demonstrate Moscow's moral support for the Arabs than to affect the military situation.

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3. NATO

The Middle East crisis has shaken those member governments that had been less than fully convinced of the necessity of the NATO defense program. This applies particularly to the Scandinavians. Ambassador Cleveland notes that the crisis has produced a sudden change in these attitudes and that expectations of an imminent East-West detente have been deflated. He also notes fewer grumbles about Vietnam.

4. Iceland

Prime Minister Benediktsson's victory in Sunday's election ensures continuation of his coalition's firm pro-Western policies. The principal contributing factors were domestic prosperity and the split in the Communists' political front. Foreign policy questions and the presence of US troops seem to have had little effect on the election.

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5. Latin America

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6. Communist China

The army has again been directed to restore order throughout the country. We do not expect this to help much. For several weeks earlier this year the army had a similar mandate--and local commanders quickly came under attack for suppressing "true revolutionaries." Some were dismissed.

This time the local military chiefs are likely to tread carefully. They probably know the trouble in the countryside is a reflection of continuing rivalries in the Peking leadership.

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